

Message Text

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64

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 AID-20 EB-11 OMB-01 FEA-02

SCI-06 INT-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 AGR-20 DRC-01 /220 W

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R 221940Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1455

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR BR NI

SUBJECT: VISIT TO BRAZIL OF NIGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARIKPO

REF: LAGOS 4496

SUMMARY: NIGERIAN FONMIN ARIKPO ARRIVED RIO JANUARY 21
TO BEGIN ONE WEEK OFFICIAL VISIT. PURPOSE OF VISIT BILLED
AS CONTINUATION OF TALKS HELD WITH BRAZILIAN FONMIN GIBSON
BARBOZA IN LAGOS DURING 1972.

1. IN PRESS CONFERENCE ON JANUARY 21, ARIKPO TOLD
REPORTERS HE VISITING BRAZIL AT INVITATION GOB TO CONTINUE
TALKS WITH GIBSON BARBOZA ON POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND
CULTURAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. ACCORDING
TO NEWSPAPER REPORTS, ARIKPO SAID THAT POLITICAL TALKS WILL
CENTER ON THE POSITIONS OF THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES AND
THEIR INTEREST IN PROMOTING WORLD PEACE AND FIGHTING

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COLONIALISM. ARIKPO REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT

AFRICANS ENTERTAIN DOUBTS ABOUT THE ATTITUDE OF BRAZIL TOWARD PORTUGAL AND HOPE AND EXPECT THAT SENTIMENTAL TIES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WILL BE OVERCOME BY BRAZIL IN INTEREST OF COLONIALIZED PEOPLES.

2. ARIKPO REPORTEDLY DESCRIBED BRAZIL AS A NEW CUSTOMER FOR NIGERIAN PETROLEUM AND SAID THAT BRAZIL'S PETROLEUM NEEDS WOULD BE A CENTRAL TOPIC IN TALKS WITH GIBSON. SINCE NIGERIA ALREADY HAS STEADY CUSTOMERS AND OUTSTANDING CONTRACTS FOR HER PETROLEUM PRODUCTION, IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO DETERMINE HOW MUCH NIGERIAN OIL BRAZIL NEEDS AND HOW THIS COULD BE FITTED INTO PRODUCTION SCHEDULES. ASKED IF NIGERIA WOULD USE ITS OIL AS A POLITICAL WEAPON, ARIKPO RESPONDED THAT NIGERIA WOULD RESPECT ITS CONTRACTUAL COMMITMENTS AND WOULD CONTINUE TO EXPAND ITS OIL PRODUCTION AT A TEN PERCENT ANNUAL RATE.

3. ACCORDING TO REPORTS, ARIKPO SAID HE INTERESTED IN ACTIVATING THE BILATERAL ACCORDS ON TECHNICAL, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL COOPERATION THAT WERE SIGNED WITH BRAZIL AT TIME OF BRAZILIAN EXPOSITION LAGOS. NIGERIA PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN ACQUIRING BRAZILIAN AGRICULTURAL KNOW-HOW, AND IN INCREASING COMMERCE WITH BRAZIL.

4. COMMENT: SINCE BARBOZA'S VISIT TO NIGERIA IN 1972 ASSURING OF PETROLEUM SUPPLIES HAS BECOME ITEM OF PRE-EMINENT IMPORTANCE TO BRAZILIAN FOREIGN POLICY. WHATEVER ARIKPO'S DEMURRERS ON USE NIGERIAN OIL AS POLITICAL WEAPON, IT CLEAR TO US THAT BRAZILIAN ACCESS TO NIGERIAN OIL, IN SO FAR AS SUCH SUPPLIES IN FACT AVAILABLE, WILL BE CONDITIONED ON BRAZILIAN POLICY TOWARD PORTUGUESE RETENTION OF AFRICAN TERRITORIES.

5. AS FOOTNOTE, BRAZILIANS GETTING QUICK REMINDER OF ON-AGAIN, OFF-AGAIN STYLE OF NIGERIAN DIPLOMACY. AFTER POST-PONEMENT OF ARIKPO VISIT, BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY WAS INFORMED, VIRTUALLY AT LAST MINUTE, THAT ARIKPO WOULD, IN FACT, BE ARRIVING ROUGHLY ACCORDING TO ORIGINAL SCHEDULE. TUCH

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